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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Identical letters dated 13 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, and further to our letters addressed to the Security Council and the Secretary-General on 19 January 2007 and 4 April 2007 respectively, regarding the abduction of 5 Iranian consular officers in Erbil (Iraq) by the military forces of the United States of America on 11 January 2007, I wish to state the following:

As pointed out in the aforesaid letters, at 5 a.m. local time on Thursday, 11 January 2007, the United States military forces, in violation of the most basic provisions governing diplomatic and consulate affairs and in a flagrant contempt for the most fundamental principles of international law, attacked the Iranian Consulate General in Erbil (Iraq) and abducted five Iranian consular officers after disarming the guards of the premises, breaking the doors into the building and beating and injuring the personnel of the Consulate General. They also confiscated some documents and other properties of the Consulate General.

This unlawful act undoubtedly constitutes one of the most serious violations of the principles of "personal inviolability of consular officers" and the "inviolability of the consular premises, archives and documents", enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963).

Regrettably, despite the repeated calls made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by the Iraqi officials for the release of the said Iranian consular officers, the United States has thus far refused to release them. Moreover, and while the illegal detention of the Iranian consular officers by the United States has continued for about five months, and notwithstanding our repeated calls on the Security Council to adopt an urgent and resolute response to this unlawful act, the

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Council has failed to address this grave illegal act that undermines international peace and security.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, once again, calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to live up to their responsibilities under the United Nations Charter without further delay by reacting to the illegal abduction and continued unlawful detention of Iranian consular personnel by the United States, and by helping secure the safe and immediate release of the abducted consular officers and the return of the confiscated documents and properties.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 76 and 80 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**